

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are pending. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-5 are currently amended.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 6-9.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations from its base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim (*i.e.*, claim 1) and any intervening claims, of which there were none.

Claim 2 should be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Claims 4-5 depend from claim 2 and, therefore, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2.

Claim 3 was rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite because the limitation “the surface of the metal substrate exposed by partially removing the insulating layer” lacked antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 3 to rectify the antecedent basis issue.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112 rejection.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this

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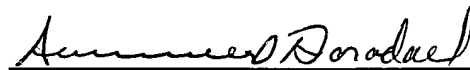
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paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Samuel Borodach  
Reg. No. 38,388

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
Citigroup Center  
52nd Floor  
153 East 53rd Street  
New York, New York 10022-4611  
Telephone: (212) 765-5070  
Facsimile: (212) 258-2291